CIA # [illegible]

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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TO : Chief, National Estimates Staff, O/NE DATE: 24 May 1951

FROM : Chief, Current Intelligence Division, O/CI

SUBJECT: NIE-37: Likelihood of a Soviet Attack on Japan

The outline has been reviewed by representatives of the Eastern and Soviet Sections who make the following suggestions:

1. Of possible interest in connection with this project is an Estimate of Soviet Requirements for an invasion of Japan, prepared by the Japanese in 1945. This document, ID #683543 TB #711-50, may contain pertinent material.

2. The outline makes no specific mention of the large Korean minority residing in Japan who have a large potential usefulness to the USSR. This point might be added to III. F. on page 5.

3. Again under III. F., it is thought that consideration might be given to present Japanese security forces (National Police Reserve, National Rural Police, etc.), their defensive effectiveness, and the speed with which they could be expanded.

4. Northern Honshu and Hokkaido are Japan's worst food deficit areas, a factor which should be considered in the logistical estimate on page 6.

5. With reference to Section V, on page 7, in addition to US involvement in Korea, to what extent would possible US involvement in other areas of the Far East (e.g., Indochina) make it more feasible for the USSR to invade Japan?

6. Section XII should also take into account the effect of a Japanese peace treaty on Soviet intentions. Would the USSR employ their "rights" under the surrender agreement as an excuse for invasion?

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